

“What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit” Part 3 - 1 Corinthians 12:8-10 – November 22nd, 2015

- Today's teaching will be part three of a series I've titled, "What Everyone Should Know About the Holy Spirit."
- Here-to-fore, the Apostle Paul has addressed the Corinthian church concerning the baptism with and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- The reason being is then like now, there's much confusion surrounding the Holy Spirit, chiefly because of Christian's ignorance.

1. Christians can be ignorant about the gifts (Verses 1-3)

- Here Paul tells them he doesn't want them to be ignorant about the gifts of the Holy Spirit nor let the past have undue influence.

2. There are different kinds of gifts and service (Verses 4-7)

- He describes different gifts but the same Spirit, different ministries but the same Lord and different workings, but the same God.

3. There are specific gifts for specific purposes (Verses 8-10)

- v8 Paul begins listing specific gifts given to someone through the Spirit, such as a word of wisdom, and a word of knowledge.
- v9 He continues with this list saying by the same Spirit, one is given a gift of faith, and another gifts of healing by that one Spirit.
- v10 He says one is given a gift of working miracles, prophecy, discerning spirits, speaking in tongues and interpreting tongues.

- In order to better understand these gifts and their specific purpose we'll look at them individually starting with a word of wisdom.
- This particular gift is supernaturally given whenever we find ourselves in those unique situations that require this manifestation.
- The scriptures are replete with examples of the word of wisdom being manifested, one of which was with the Savior Himself.

John 8:3-7 - 3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group 4 and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. 5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" 6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. 7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her."

- The next gift is a word of knowledge, and it's a companion gift of sorts with a word of wisdom such that they both work together.
- It's been said that knowledge is information, but wisdom is application of the information, and such is the case with these gifts.
- One of the best examples of this particular gift is found in Acts 27 when Paul was about to be shipwrecked on his way to Rome.

Acts 27:10, 23-26 - 10 "Men, I can see that our voyage is going to be disastrous and bring great loss to ship and cargo, and to our own lives also." ...23 Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me 24 and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' 25 So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. 26 Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

- The third gift that Paul lists is the gift of faith, and this is a most interesting gift because it is not the same as our walking in faith.
- Rather, it's a unique manifestation given by the Holy Spirit in a specific situation where a measure of supernatural faith is given.
- We find one example of this in the Gospel of Matthew, when Peter is given this gift to step out of the boat and walk on water.

Matthew 14:25–32 (NIV) — 25 Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27 But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28 "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29 "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

- The fourth gift Paul that lists is the gift of healings, and one can be on either the giving or receiving end of this particular gift.
- However, this gift is not always present and as such we see numerous examples of it in scripture, namely, with the Apostles.
- By way of an example, Paul had this gift on occasion but couldn't use it when it came to Timothy, or even his thorn in the flesh.

Adam Clarke of this says, "The power which at particular times the apostles received from the Holy Spirit to cure diseases, [was] a power which was not always resident in them; for Paul could not cure Timothy, nor remove his own thorn in the flesh; because it was given only on extraordinary occasions, though perhaps more generally than many others."

- The gift of healings and the aforementioned gift of faith, work in concert with the fifth gift on Paul's list, the working of miracles.
- However, contrary to what we see on TV, believers do not have unfettered access to these gifts of faith, healing, and miracles.
- If they did, then as has been so aptly pointed out, you'd see them in hospitals using this gift to genuinely heal the multitudes.

Acts 14:8–10 (NIV) — 8 In Lystra there sat a man who was lame. He had been that way from birth and had never walked. 9 He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed 10 and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.

- The sixth is the gift of prophecy, which we looked at last week when we connected 1 Corinthians 12 to the list in Romans 12.
- The gift of prophecy is the speaking forth of God's word in a specific situation, and sometimes it is the foretelling of the future.
- An example of this gift as it relates to the foretelling of that which is yet future is found in the book of Acts, and it concerns Paul.

Acts 21:10–11 (NIV) — 10 After we had been there a number of days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.' "

- The seventh gift is the discerning of spirits, which is the supernatural ability to tell the difference between what's true and false.
- This is a most interesting gift for a number of reasons not the least of which is that giving it is disproportionate to our using of it.
- In other words, God desires to give this gift to us for what would be deemed obvious reasons, but we just don't receive or use it.

1 John 4:1–3 (NIV) — 1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.

- This brings us to the eight and ninth gift, which are the most controversial, and they are the gift of tongues and of interpretation.
- You'll forgive me for not tackling this touchy topic today, as I think it would behoove us to devote adequate time to this one gift.
- I'll bring it to an abrupt close by sharing with you my own experience concerning the gift of tongues along with the interpretation.

- A number of years ago, while I was at a Calvary Chapel Senior Pastor's Conference in California, I witnessed this amazing gift.
- Actually, I had prayed that God would allow me to see this gift being used and on this particular night God answered my prayer.
- As we were worshipping and waiting, a pastor stood up and spoke in the most beautiful language I have ever heard in my life.

- Damian Kyle, who is the pastor of Calvary Chapel Modesto, was leading our time, and softly asked for the interpretation of it.
- Within a matter of seconds, another Calvary pastor stood up and interpreted the tongue and after he did, I just started weeping.
- The only way I could describe it is it was like you were in the presence of the Lord worshipping and praising and thanking Him.